HER CLAN DESTROYED. HER FAMILY MURDERED.
NOTHING LEFT TO LIVE FOR... BUT REVENGE!
2
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CEBULSKI
TAKEDA
DRAIN

DRAIN™

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SPECIAL THANKS TO **AKIHIDE YANAGI**

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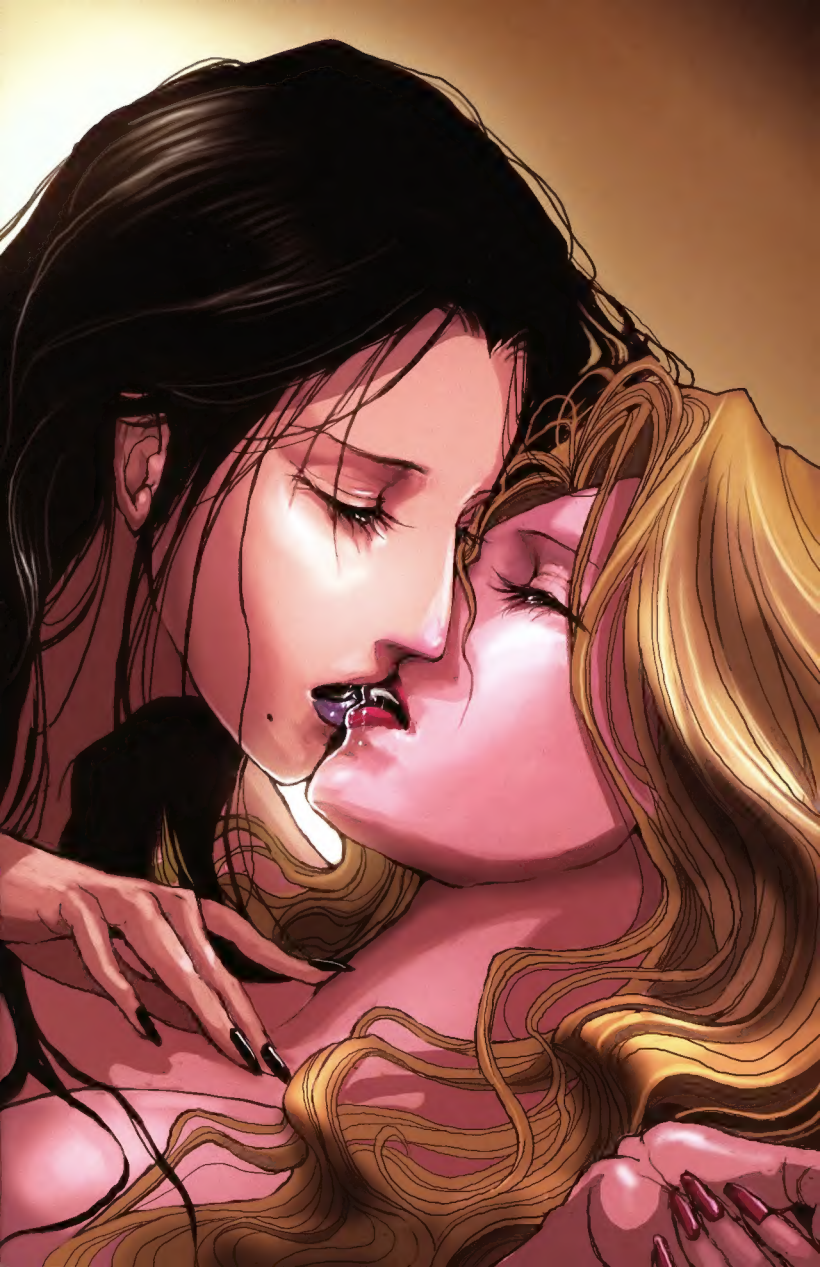
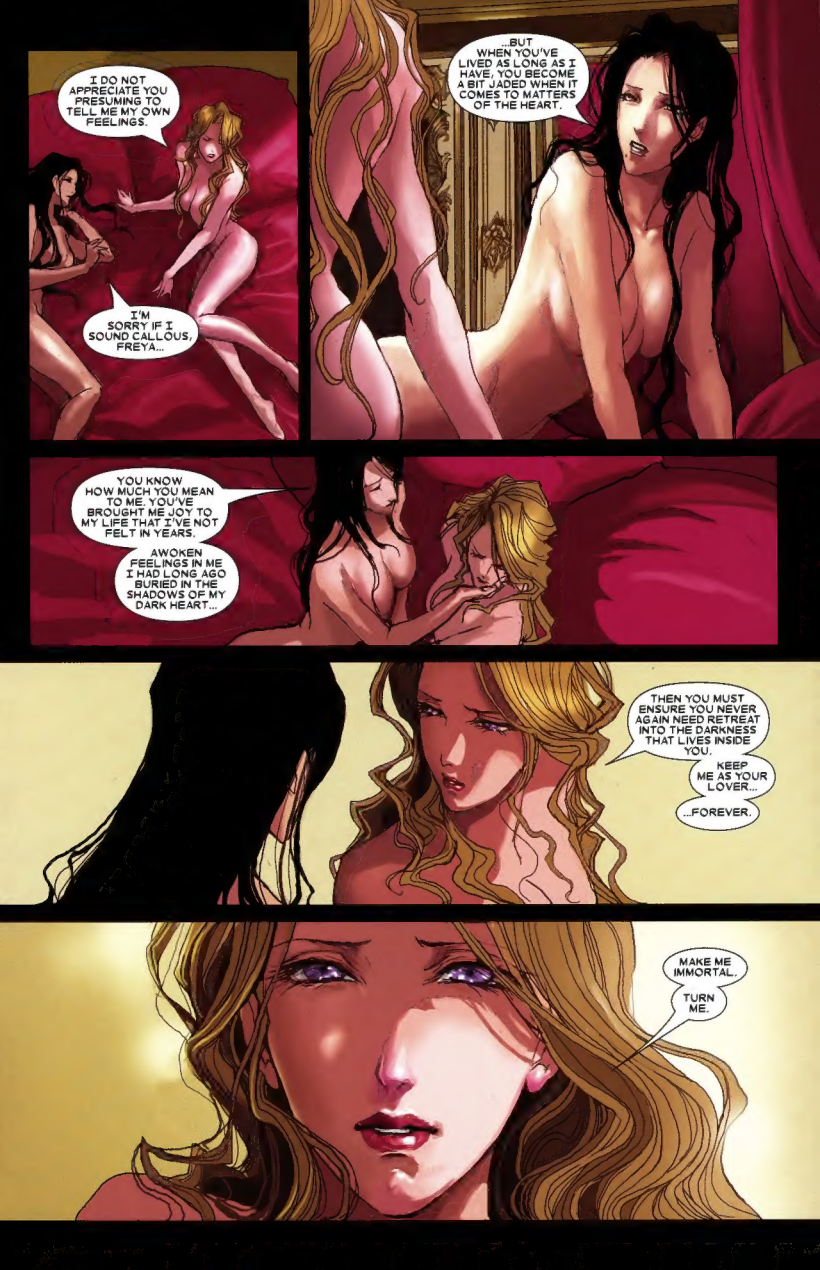


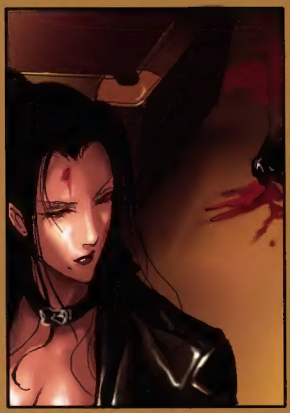
EUROPE, 1803.
I COULD DO THAT FOREVER.
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR.
I'M SERIOUS, CHINATSU.
I LOVE YOU.
YOU ONLY THINK YOU DO, FREYA.
DON'T CONFUSE YOUR FEELINGS OF LUST FOR THOSE OF LOVE.


I DO NOT APPRECIATE YOU PRESUMING TO TELL ME MY OWN FEELINGS.
I'M SORRY IF I SOUND CALLOUS, FREYA...
...BUT WHEN YOU'VE LIVED AS LONG AS I HAVE, YOU BECOME A BIT JADED WHEN IT COMES TO MATTERS OF THE HEART.
YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOU MEAN TO ME. YOU'VE BROUGHT ME JOY TO MY LIFE THAT I'VE NOT FELT IN YEARS.
AWOKEN FEELINGS IN ME I HAD LONG AGO BURIED IN THE SHADOWS OF MY DARK HEART...
THEN YOU MUST ENSURE YOU NEVER AGAIN NEED RETREAT INTO THE DARKNESS THAT LIVES INSIDE YOU.
KEEP ME AS YOUR LOVER...
...FOREVER.
MAKE ME IMMORTAL.
TURN ME.

STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS ONE BEFORE...
TWO FEMALE VAMPIRES WALK INTO A BAR. ONE TURNS TO THE OTHER AND SAYS, "I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN FOREVER!"
.....
FIND MY HUMOR A LITTLE DRY, DO YOU?
THEN ALLOW ME TO OFFER YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK, SOMETHING MORE TO YOUR LIKING THAN OUR BARTENDER HERE...
YOU ALWAYS WERE MUCH PICKIER THAN I WAS.
I'VE MISSED YOU, CHINATSU.
ALWAYS SO PROPER ABOUT THE RULES OF FEEDING...
ABOUT EVERYTHING REALLY, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT.
EXCEPT IN BED.

FREYA...
HOW ABOUT A KISS FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE?

SMAK
I GUESS I DESERVED THAT... AFTER ALL THIS TIME.
AS MUCH AS IT PAINS ME TO RUIN SUCH A NICE SUIT...
...THIS IS PROBABLY NOT THE ONLY BLOOD THAT WILL END UP STAINING IT TONIGHT.
NOW THAT YOU'VE GOTTEN THAT OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM, WON'T YOU JOIN ME FOR THAT DRINK?



DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE MESS. NO ONE WILL WALK IN ON US.
I HAVE PEOPLE WATCHING TO MAKE SURE WE'RE NOT DISTURBED.

WOULDN'T WANT TO SPOIL THE BIG SURPRISE. YOU SEE, I BROUGHT YOU A PRESENT.

IS THAT...?
CHATEAU LAFITE. 1797.

HOW?
I HAVE MY WAYS.

YES, YOU ALWAYS HAVE.
A TOAST THEN...
TO THE PAST.
THAT'S NOT WORTH TOASTING TO.

MAYBE IT'S NOT WORTH TOASTING, BUT SURELY THERE ARE SOME THINGS WORTH REMEMBERING

IT WAS KIND OF THOSE DUTCHMEN TO OFFER US THEIR WINE.
THERE WAS NOTHING KIND ABOUT IT. THEY WERE SIMPLY HOPING TO GET IN OUR BEDS.
HAHAHAHA!
CLINK
LITTLE DID THEY KNOW THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON I SHARE MY BED WITH
NO, CHINATSU. I CAN'T... I DO NOT WANT TO BE SOMETHING YOU SIMPLY SHARE ANY LONGER.
I WANT YOU TO TAKE ME. MAKE ME YOURS.
I'M GROWING TIRED OF THIS END-LESS PRATTLING, FREYA. HOW MANY TIMES MUST I EXPLAIN MYSELF TO YOU?
THIS LIFE I'VE BEEN FORCED INTO, THAT OF A VAMPIRE. IT'S NOT SOME GIFT I'M FREE TO GIVE.
IT'S A CURSE I MUST BEAR!

IT CAN BE A CURSE WE'LL BEAR TOGETHER THEN
PLEASE CHINATSU
FOR THE FINAL TIME... AND FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
I WILL NOT TURN YOU, FREYA!
SMAK
HHHSSSSS

AAIIIEEE!!
WHAT HAVE I DONE..?
FREYA, WAIT!!
:SOB SOB:

FREYA, I'M SORRY.
LEAVE ME ALONE!
NOW YOU'VE LOOKED INTO THE FACE OF EVIL. WITNESSED THE MONSTER THAT LURKS INSIDE ME
DO YOU SEE NOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A VAMPIRE?
SEE WHY I REFUSE TO MAKE YOU LIKE ME?!
WHAT I JUST SAW IS NOT WHAT FRIGHTENS ME. I KNOW AND ACCEPT THE NATURE OF THE BEAST THAT HIDES WITHIN YOU.
I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU, CHINATSU.
I'M AFRAID FOR YOU.
I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART AND IT SCARES ME TO IMAGINE YOU LIVING ALL ALONE WITH THAT INSIDE YOU
I LOVE YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE, NOT WHAT YOU ARE
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO LIVE FOREVER...
...TOGETHER?

OH, FREYA..
FORGIVE ME

NOTHING LIKE THE SENSE OF TASTE TO BRING BACK THE MEMORIES, EH?
BUT TELL ME, CHINATSU, WHICH MEMORY WAS MORE VIVID FOR YOU, THE TASTE OF THE WINE...
...OR THE TASTE OF MY BLOOD?!
IF YOU'RE IMPLYING THAT I SHOULD SOMEHOW FEEL GUILT OVER TURNING YOU, FREYA, PLEASE GET OVER YOURSELF.
YOU ASKED FOR IT. YOU *BEGGED* FOR IT.
YES, I MAY HAVE ASKED FOR IT, BUT I WAS NAIVE. YOU WERE THE IMMORTAL! YOU SHOULD HAVE LEARNED TO RESIST TEMPTATION AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS!
YOU KNEW WHAT YOU WERE DOING, YOU BITCH! YOU'D SPENT THE LAST TWO HUNDRED YEARS CHASING THE VAMPIRE THAT TURNED YOU... AND THEN YOU WILLINGLY INFLICT THAT SAME FATE UPON SOMEONE ELSE?!
HOW DARE YOU COMPARE OUR SITUATIONS?!
I WAS NOT GIVEN A CHOICE! MY LIFE WAS TAKEN FROM ME!!
YOU CHOSE TO GIVE YOURS UP WILLING!

"YOU DID IT ALL FOR LOVE."
I KNOW. I KNOW... I'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE, CHINATSU.
YOU BEEN SINGING THE SAME TUNE FOR TWO CENTURIES NOW
AND YOU'VE BEEN DANCING THE SAME DANCE WITH ME, FREYA.
COMING AFTER ME WHENEVER YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE POWER TO FINALLY TAKE ME DOWN... WHICH I ASSUME IS THE REASON YOU'RE HERE NOW.
SO WHY DRAG THIS OUT FURTHER WITH POINTLESS BICKERING?
SHALL WE DANCE?

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE, I SEE..
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO QUICK TO SKIP RIGHT PAST THE FOREPLAY...
...TO GET RIGHT TO THE CLIMAX!

SWISH
SLASH
WHISH
CLANG

CLANG
WHOOSH
SLAAMK

SLAAASH!!
THWOK
LUCKY SHOT.
YOU WISH
HIIIYAAHH!!!

SLASH
CLANG
THWAM
WOOOSH

SOMEONE'S PUT HER YEARS TO GOOD USE. I'M IMPRESSED.
IT'S AMAZING WHAT FOCUSING YOUR ANGER CAN DO..
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU HAVE SOMEONE LIKE *HIM* TO SHARE IT WITH!
HIM..? YOU CAN'T MEAN--
SCHHNG

SHRAAANG
NICE TRY HOPING TO GET ME TO DROP MY GUARD BY DROPPING HIS NAME?
OH, DON'T WORRY. THE ONLY ONE DROPPING ANYTHING HERE
WHAT?!
..IS ME!
NOW ABOUT THAT TOAST...

"TO THE PAST."
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE

"IN A FLASH..."

...they say when you're about to die, your life flashes before you... but when you're an immortal vampire who's lived for hundreds of years, who knows exactly what you'll experience on your deathbed? After her battle with Freya, we will take a step back in Chinatsu's history and look at some of the lives she lived prior to coming to New York in her quest for revenge.

Image

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THE COMPLETE INVINCIBLE LIBRARY VOL. 1 HARDCOVER
Collecting the INVINCIBLE ULTIMATE COLLECTION, Vol. 1-2 into one massive volume just in time for CHRISTMAS! Probably not good for a stocking stuffer because it is so huge - use wrapping paper and give it like a regular gift. Almost 800 pages of pure INVINCIBLE goodness! This one-time only item will be limited to 2500 copies. Don't miss out!

THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ
Rediscover the wonderful world of Oz in this fresh adaptation of L. FRANK BAUM's classic by DAVID CHAUVEL, featuring the breathtaking artwork of ENRIQUE FERNANDEZ. Originally published in France and winner of the prestigious 2005 Grand Prix de la Ville De Lyon Award of Illustration, this all-new adaptation of THE WIZARD OF OZ is presented here for the first time in English. The Tin Man is wicked awesome.

DARKNESS: LEVEL 1
Springing from the five different levels in the upcoming Xbox 360 and Playstation3 video game! By THE DARKNESS video game/comic scribe PAUL JENKINS and THE DARKNESS co-creator DAVID WOHL! Jackie Estacado embarks on a new adventure that will, for the first time, show the inner workings of the power that is called The Darkness.

MELTDOWN: BOOK 1
A hero on the verge of burning out. Literally.
Writer DAVID SCHWARTZ and artist SEAN WANG introduce the Flare, a dying superhero whose powers are killing him. As the Flare attempts to set his life in order, he comes to understand the number of lives that he touched, the number of people that look up to him, and that he was, in fact, much more of a hero than he ever dreamed himself to be.

DECEMBER HITLIST

- AGE OF BRONZE #24
- BATTLE POPE #13
- BOMB QUEEN II: QUEEN OF HEARTS #3 (of 3)
- CASANOVA #7
- CITY OF HEROES #17
- THE CROSS BRONX #4 (of 4)
- THE CRYPTICS' 2ND ISSUE
- THE DARKNESS LEVEL 1
- DRAIN #2
- ELEPHANTMEN #5
- EMISSARY #7
- FRESHMAN, VOL. 2 #2 (of 6)
- GIRLS #20
- GODLAND #15
- IMPALER #3
- INVINCIBLE #37
- MELTDOWN #1 (of 2)
- MIKE CAREY'S ONE-SIDED BARGAIN (one-shot)
- NEGATIVE BURN #8
- NIGHT CLUB #4 (of 4)
- THE NIGHTLY NEWS #2 (of 6)
- THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE #2 (of 2)
- PHONOGRAM #4 (of 6)
- THE PIRATES OF CONEY ISLAND #3 (of 8)
- SAVAGE DRAGON #130
- SPAWN #163
- STRANGE GIRL #14
- SUPERPATRIOT: WAR ON TERROR #4 (of 4)
- SAVAGE DRAGON #130
- TRUE STORY SWEAR TO GOD #3
- THE WALKING DEAD #33
- WITCHBLADE #104
- WONDERLOST #1

GRAND LARSENY

Hey, gang–

A lot of you seem to be chompin' at the bit to break into the funnybook biz and Image Comics in particular, and we couldn't be happier about that.

We get thousands of submissions. It seems everybody and their brother wants to join the riotous ranks of image assembled– and you may be wondering how you can do the same.

Now, you don't have to be an established big shot (but they're welcome too) you just need one thing:

A great comic book.

Y'see, more than anything–Image is all about publishing the greatest comics on the face of the Earth, so if you have one of those–well, you're well on your way to joining team Image!

Image Comics only publishes creator-owned material. We aren't looking to have you work on books that WE dream up – we want to publish YOUR great comics. When you're submitting stuff to us at the home office, we expect it to be something awe-inspiring and original, not something utilizing existing awe-inspiring and original Image Comics characters. Image Comics accepts only PROPOSALS for new comic series or graphic novels, etc.

A PROPOSAL should contain the following:

• A typewritten cover letter with all your vital contact information (name, e-mail address, address, phone and whatnot) clearly printed on the TOP of the page.

• A typed, ONE PAGE synopsis of the overall STORY. We don't want a single-issue synopsis – we want a synopsis of the ENTIRE series or story arc. TELL US THE STORY, make us interested–this is your sales pitch–so sell it. Please avoid hyperbole – avoid questions as plot points ("What will Barney do when confronted with...?"), etc. We are the PUBLISHER, not the audience. TELL US WHAT HAPPENS! Explain why we (or anyone else) would be interested in this series. KEEP IT SHORT! We get truckloads of submissions, so you really need to cut to the chase – if you can sell us your book with a single paragraph, do it!

• Photocopies of fully INKED and LETTERED pages (any size). DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL ART! We'd like to see AT LEAST five pages that are fully inked and lettered. If you have MORE than five finished pages, swell – bring 'em on! Five is the MINIMUM we want to see – not a maximum. We want to READ it. If the lettering is amateurish, we may suggest a different letterer for the final comic book. If the coloring is sub-standard, we may recommend another colorist. The important thing, though, is that we can SEE that you know what you're doing, that you understand where to place copy and how to tell a story. (Color is OPTIONAL, incidentally. If you have a colorist and can provide color pages, great. But it's not necessary at this stage).

• A cover mock-up showing us how you'd like your comic book to look on the racks. Keep in mind – a good logo should be EASILY read from across the room. We DO make people change their logos on occasion–and we do help out if covers look weak–but we'd like to see what you have in mind.

Don't be fancy or artistic, be CLEAR. You can send character sketches and bios, but not in lieu of storytelling pages – we still need to see five finished pages of sequential storytelling, lettered and inked. DO NOT send script pages, and DO NOT send unlettered pages accompanied by a script and expect us to follow along.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

Things often change from proposal to the printed page. If the intended title of your book is awkward or unwieldy, we may suggest something else. If your logo is an unreadable mess, we may want that changed. There are cases where we've designed logos and helped redesign characters and done cover sketches. We WON'T do anything without YOUR approval, of course, but it's not uncommon for us to get pretty involved. Our ultimate goal is to sell your comic book. If you succeed, we succeed. We'll do what we can to help. We don't want you to fail!

The creative team in your pitch is the one we have expect to see actually working on your book. It is NOT okay to pitch a book and say it will be written by Robert Kirkman and drawn by Todd McFarlane and then switch to another creative team. If the artist you pitched your series with leaves you for a prettier girl, go back to the end of the line and start over. This also means that on all ongoing titles, we need to be made aware of and approve ALL changes in the creative team. It's NOT okay to have six pages in issue #1 drawn by some hotshot while some guy off the street draws the rest of it.

Please don't hand Image employees submissions at comic book conventions. We have enough stuff to haul around as it is. Your pitch is far MORE likely to get lost, misplaced or discarded if we get it at a show.

Send your submissions to:

Submissions
c/o Image Comics
1942 University Avenue
Suite 305
Berkeley, CA 94704

We are not looking for any specific genre or type of comic book. Your imagination is your only limitation! If you have a great sci-fi cowboy romance book–that's fine. Don't assume that just because we're NOT publishing the kind of book you want to do that we're not interested in publishing it. If anything, we're LESS interested in publishing books that are similar to ones we're already publishing. Innovate, don't imitate! We're looking for comics that are well written and well drawn, by people who are dedicated to their craft and committed to their project (and if you can meet your deadlines–all the better).

Finally, since Image Comics, Inc. owns no intellectual properties, you can rest assured that, accepted or not, your property will remain yours.

We wish you the best luck and the greatest success.

Erik Larsen

Publisher
Image Comics, Inc.

WWW A toast! MATT FRACTION will totally be your Casanova at mattfraction.com!
See that girl, watch that scene, diggin' the Bomb Queen at valentinocomics.com!

Did you know that Jacob Chabot's THE MIGHTY SKULLBOY ARMY first saw print in the pages of SAVAGE DRAGON??? It's true! Skullboy is back this month in SAVAGE DRAGON #130 in the ongoing COMIC BITS comic strip by Chris Giarrusso!

DAVID SCHWARTZ • SEAN WANG • GURU-eFX

MELTDOWN: BOOK TWO

THE STUNNING CONCLUSION!

ON SALE NOW!

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